

GLASGOW'S Sandra Branney extended her competitive credentials into the country when she won the 3½ mile Scottish Women's Championships on Sunday, and she did so despite strong opposition from Lynn Harding, and organisational mayhem.

Obviously an athlete has the responsibility for running the course set but the rules clearly state that a steward should be made available at 'intricate parts of the course'. Having no such stewards at a junction in an area where homing pigeons have been known to wander was always asking for trouble.

Branney led the field by the short lap turn off as if on lap two but ¾ of a mile later both she and Harding missed the second turn and headed for the finish line.

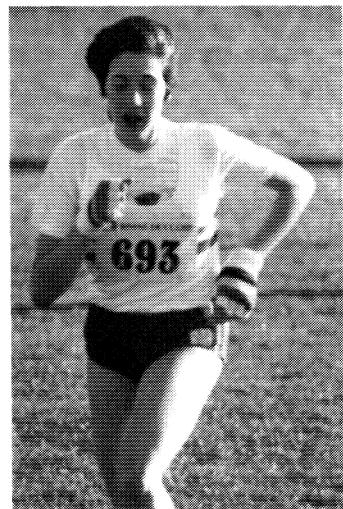
Officials tore down tapes and fencing to let competitors run through, but a few, thinking the race was over, mounted all or nothing sprints for the line, only to be told to run on. Some gave up and dropped out.

Branney and Harding were quickly back in their stride however and that was when the Glasgow woman's marathon strength began to tell.

With 800m to go Harding was ten metres down but pulled it all back and took the lead. It was Branney's turn to grit her teeth and hang on but with 300m left she went to the front and ran on to win in 23:46.

The race controversy continued with Sharon Sinclair's disqualification and the home club Irvine missing out on their team prize as a consequence.

Sinclair, it was said, had been coached from the sides. She maintains she heard nothing and had run her own race. An appeal is being submitted by the Irvine Club officials.



• **SONYA GRAINGER:** a convincing winner of the intermediate race.

Seniors — 1, S Branney (McGlas) 23:46; 2, L Harding (Hough) 23:51; 3, L Vandyc (ExL) 24:14; 4, L Reilly (Morp) 24:16; 5, B Murray (Macc) 24:34; 6, M Wylie (McGlas) 24:43; 7, A Sym (McGlas) 24:47; 8, A Ridley (SB) 24:52; 9, S Sinclair (Irv) disq.; 10, E Masson (Kilb) 25:12.

Teams — 1, McLaren Glasgow 14; 2, Houghton Harriers 47; 3, Aberdeen AAC 87.

Inters — 1, S Grainger (EWM) 15:28; 2, K Ryan (Darl) 15:44; 3, H Haining (Nith) 15:59; 4, N Taylor (Mand); 5, M McClung (Kilm) 16:44; 6, A Totten (Aird) 16:57; 7, R Dejager (Kilb) 17:04; 8, A Normand (VPH) 17:09; 9, S Robb (Irv) 17:22; 10, V McPherson (Troon) 17:33.

Teams — 1, Kilmarnock Harriers 37; 2, Irvine 44; 3, Kilbarchan 46.

Juniors — 1, N Brown (Tyne) 13:23; 2, S MacDonald (Irv) 13:38; 3, R Pollock (Loud) 13:48; 4, R Houston (Moth) 13:59; 5, J Anderson (Tev) 14:02.

Teams — 1, Inverness Harriers 123; 2, Helensburgh 125; 3, Glasgow 132.



• **SANDRA BRANNEY:** leads Lynn Harding (789) in the senior women's championship.

Girls — 1, A Cheyne (B'gate) 13:21; 2, A Foster (Morp) 13:23; 3, J Linaker (Pit) 13:36; 4, W Irving (Derw) 13:39; 5, D McNally (VP) 13:41.

Teams — 1, Victoria Park 71; 2, Derwent 75; 3, Pitreavie 93.

Minors — 1, H Brooks (Ayr S) 9:41; 2, M Smith (Black I) 9:51; 3, S Scott (Ayr S) 9:55; 4, K Stewart (Kilm) 10:05; 5, A Russell (Aird) 10:11.

Teams — 1, Black Isle 45; 2, Ayr Seaforth 66; 3, Airdrie Harriers 72.